

# News Break

**"WORKING TO MAKE INDIANA BUSINESSES CLEAN AND SAFE AND WAGES FAIR AND COMPETITIVE."**

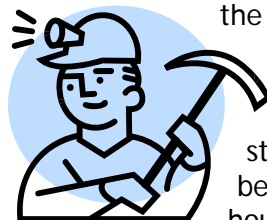
## Darkness, Hard Work, and Good Friends

*By Commissioner Miguel R. Rivera, Sr.*

I recently spent five hours working the first shift with a group of hard working, underground coal miners at the Air Quality Mine just outside of Vincennes, Indiana. I have been down for an hour or so before, but nothing like this. The bottom line is I was scared to death the evening before, but once I got to the mine and got with the guys, it was a lot of fun. We started the day taking the "elevator" down some 317 feet below the earth. Then about 15 of us boarded a "man trip" (kind of a shuttle car for you newbies) and drove for about 20 minutes, some 2 ½ miles into the mine, through a labyrinth of columns, sections, and passageways, to where the coal was being mined.

I followed the shift boss around conducting his routine shift change inspection and tried not to hyperventilate . . . man, was it deep! Then I got engaged. I "helped" (as used here, "help" means I "got in the way" while others tried to work anyway) mine coal with the operator of a continuous miner. That is a machine that mines about 10 or 12 tons of coal every three minutes or so. The machine looked to me like the planet eater from the original *Star Trek* series; i.e., scary. I worked with the best roof bolting team in the mine and then it was time to be trained and certified.

I was taught how to operate and drive a huge, battery-powered scoop. I drove it forwards, backwards, and even turned a couple of corners . . . amazing. Then I helped build a large, cinder block wall to seal off an area of



the mine and control airflow. It was hard work, but what a pleasure it was to stand back and see something standing that was not there before you started. My five hours went by quickly.

The day was topped off with a wild drive in the man trip back to the elevator. Yes, I drove. If you have ever driven a car down a hallway that is about five and a half feet high and only ten feet wide with 90-degree turns, at about 25 to 30 miles per hour, you may have some idea what it was like . . . it was the drive of my life.

I learned that the community of miners is a group of people, men and women, who work very, very hard in a very, very demanding environment. Everyone looks out for one another, and nobody is a slacker. If invited, I would do it again. I will never forget the friends I met and the experience I had. Thank you, Air Quality Mine, for a great experience.

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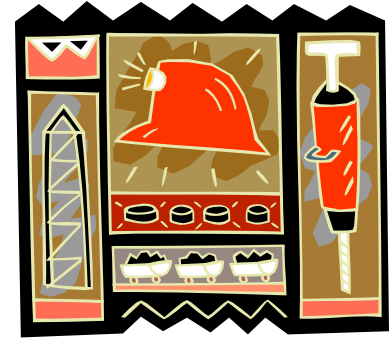
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Editor & Photographer ..... Mary Durbin Sparks  
Senior Staff Writer & Art Director ..... Teresa Blalock

# A New Home for the Bureau of Mines

By Don "Blink" McCorkle

The IDOL Bureau of Mines will be relocating its office from 1605 Willow Street in Vincennes, Indiana, to Vincennes University's Mine Technology Building on campus. The move is scheduled to occur by the end of May. This move will benefit both the Bureau and the University by giving us a channel to trade and teach new mining theories, to work closely with the students who will be the future coal miners of Indiana, and to show them that the State of Indiana is supporting their future and their safety as they open new doors in the mining industry.



Our goal is to have the safest, most productive mines in Indiana, and this is an important step toward reaching that goal by partnering with Vincennes University and its new technology program.

## The Commissioner Down Under

Commissioner Rivera was recently put to work at the Air Quality Mine in Vincennes. He was underground for almost five hours and worked alongside miners working the first shift. He inspected the work area with the shift supervisor, inspected the area used for charging the huge batteries used on the machines in the mine, and actually helped mine coal with a continuous miner. In addition, he helped install roof bolts, move electrical and water cables around, was trained and operated a batter scoop, was trained and drove a "man trip", and even built an air stop (wall) out of cinder blocks and plaster.

The Commissioner said it was a tremendous learning opportunity. "I learned a great deal about various types of coal, shale and other materials underground. I touched a 250 million year old petrified tree bark impression left in the roof after we mined the coal. The tree was huge!"

Now, as we know, coal miners all have nicknames. Our own Deputy Commissioner, Don McCorkle goes by "Blink". Commissioner? . . . what's it going to be?



Commissioner Rivera with fellow miners, Greg (left) and Bubba (right).

# Make a Right Turn onto One Care Street™

By Michelle Ellison



The Haelan Group is a privately held corporation in Indianapolis, Indiana. Haelan is a health

improvement solutions company that is committed to helping people feel and function better. Haelan is the origin of the word, health, meaning to heal.

One Care Street™ is The Haelan Group's predictive model and a population health management system that incorporates industry-best predictive and intervention models. One Care Street™ is a web-enabled health advocacy application that provides individuals with health-related coaching tips and guidance. One Care Street™ promotes personal health improvements and decrease non-beneficial health care use. It is the goal of One Care Street™ to provide the most appropriate care to the right people at the right time. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential as current statistics indicate that health care plan costs are expected to double in the next five to six years.

## Communication!

Beginning in May and commencing in October 2006, The Haelan Group will provide outreach and informational sessions of which you can be a part. Haelan will also send a series of written communication to your home to invite you to participate in this optional health initiative.

## An Incentive to Participate!

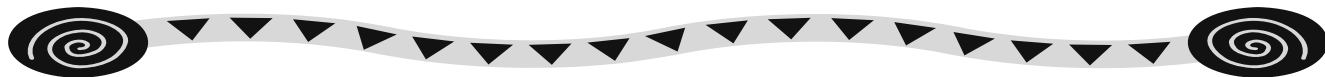
The first phase of participation is to complete an online Health Profile in response to the letter that will be sent directly from Haelan to each person in your household. The second phase of participation is to complete a Health Goal or if you are eligible for "Health Coaching," to complete the initial call with your assigned Health Coach. Haelan will keep track of each person and sends an incentive credit upon completion. This incentive is in the form of a reduction in **YOUR** contribution to your 2007 health insurance benefit premiums, your bi-weekly contribution! If you and your dependent (spouse only, dependent children are exempt) participate and complete the first two phases of this initiative, you will receive a \$15 bi-weekly reduction in your health benefit premiums. Employees that participate as single individuals receive a \$10 bi-weekly reduction in their health benefit premiums. This is money back into your pocket!

## Maintaining Confidentiality!

The use of this service is 100% confidential. The State of Indiana as an employer will receive statistical data to help in the identification of trends and success stories; however, this data will not in any way be connected to you personally.

## Logon!

Further information will be provided in the upcoming weeks. To learn more now, please visit, <http://www.haelan.net/>.



# Great Job, Team QM&S!

*By Elizabeth Friend*

The Quality, Metrics & Statistics staff has been working since January collecting data for the 2005 BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. The team has been entering data diligently under the leadership of Joe Black.

Over 5,000 surveys were sent to Indiana businesses requesting information about work-related injuries and illnesses at their establishment. Indiana, along with the other participating states in the BLS Survey program, is required to have at least an overall 85% response rate during the data collection period, which ends at the close of business on June 26, 2006. In addition, in order to be able to publish survey data for an industry for which we want to publish data, we must also attain an 85% response rate in those industries as well.

A majority of companies complete their surveys within a reasonable amount of time. It is the job of the Quality, Metrics & Statistics staff to follow up on the outstanding surveys to ensure the 85% level is achieved by June 26. Follow up includes tracking down companies via the web, which may have moved, and calling company contacts to walk them through completing the survey.

As of April 25, the team has already achieved an 82% return rate! This is 15 percentage points greater than the level they had attained last year at this same time (67%). This return rate is also 4 percentage points higher than the national return rate (78%). Please stop by and check out the metrics posted outside the office of Joe Black. Great work!



Commissioner Rivera commends the QM&S staff.



# Spot Bonus Award Winners



(L to R) Joe Black, Commissioner Rivera, Mike Gaskil



(L to R) Tony Kuritz, Commissioner Rivera

## Performance Highlights



### Joe Black - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey Coordinator

- Joe is an excellent liaison between the IDOL executive staff and the regional and federal staff at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. His relationships with these personnel made the transfer of administration seamless.
- Joe took the lead in ensuring two new QMS staff members were properly trained last year, and he remains available to assist all QMS staff with questions and clarifications.
- Through organization and planning, Joe ensures survey data deadlines are communicated to and met by the team in a timely manner, and he has an excellent rapport with employers selected for the surveys.
- Joe is knowledgeable about grants, computer systems, laws, and data coding intricacies. His work is known at the regional and national level. At a recent BLS national meeting, examples of Joe's work were identified as best practice models.

### Mike Gaskil - VPP Manager

- Mike has done incredible work in advancing the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) for Indiana's OSHA program.
- Total Indiana VPP Participants as of 3/22/06: 36 total sites, 4 merit sites, 32 star sites.
- Mike has selected and trained two VPP team leaders and eight team members on staff.
- Because of Mike's efforts, the IDOL is now 4th in the nation for VPP and is on the heels of California's program!

### Tony Kuritz - INSafe Health Consultant

- Tony has selflessly gone the extra mile to help with the acclimation of the new INSafe Deputy Commissioner.
- He presented a thorough analysis of the department's resources and what was needed to make processes better.
- Tony has stepped up and worked diligently to implement our hazard correction/abatement process to clean up a record number of files, all while conducting consultations and follow-ups, training other team members on software, and physically setting up the new computers purchased for the team.
- Tony Kuritz continues to go above and beyond the call of duty by being an extraordinary team player.

# ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

## **May Birthdays**

5/6	Kenneth Boucher ("KR")
5/6	Kevin Coleman
5/7	Kathy Morris Brewer
5/11	Loren Stuckey
5/20	Sandy Williams
5/21	Ron Sebelski
5/23	Michelle Ellison
5/23	Don (Blink) McCorkle
5/23	Debbie Rauen
5/28	Mary Durbin Sparks
5/31	Quin Cheatham
5/31	John Duncan



## **May Anniversaries**

Joe Moorhouse	5/7/1975
Jason Reason	5/1/2000
Calvin Trautvetter	5/23/1994
Larry Yumang	5/11/1998



## **June Anniversaries**

Steven Axsom	6/4/1979
John Brunswick	6/19/1995
Gary Cahill	6/29/1998
Michelle Ellison	6/20/2005
Rhonda Mason	6/8/1998
Debbie Rauen	6/28/1993
Tom Ripberger	6/1/1999
Stephen Sermersheim	6/4/1979
Janie Thacker	6/26/1978
William Windsor, Jr.	6/28/1990



## **June Birthdays**

6/7	Vicky Hoberty
6/8	Kyle Slade
6/14	Bob Etnyre
6/27	Larry Reinbold
6/29	Connie Nalley



## **July Anniversaries**

<b>Chris Bryant</b>	<b>7/2/2001</b>
Scott Frosch	7/12/2004
Michele Gibson	7/9/1990
Gary Hulbert	7/28/1997
Beth Jewel	7/20/1992
Jerry Orrell	7/12/1999
Marsha Roberts	7/13/1987
Jenny Sawyer	7/27/1998
Roy Stowe	7/7/1980
Paul Wehmeier	7/5/2005



5 yrs.

## **July Birthdays**

7/3	Jody White
7/5	Gerald Orrell
7/8	William Honey
7/15	Jerry Marquell
7/16	Mike Gaskill
7/22	Bob Kattau
7/28	Chris Bryant



For my birthday I got a humidifier and a de-humidifier . . . I put them in the same room and let them fight it out.  
**Comedian Steven Wright**

# IDOL Welcomes Three to Staff



**Donald "Blink" McCorkle**

- Hired March 22, 2006, as Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety
- 34 years mining experience: worked in five mines in three different states, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana.
- 13 years mine rescue experience
- Married to wife, Sue, have two daughters who are married, and two granddaughters
- Moving to Vincennes in 2006 with wife, Sue
- Enjoys church choir, granddaughters, golf
- Thankful to have a chance to work for the IDOL!



**William Honey**

- Hired March 27, 2006, as Construction Safety Inspector
- Moved to Indianapolis in 2004 from Georgia
- 8 years construction experience in natural gas pipelines
- 2 years construction experience in precast concrete
- Wife, Suzanne
- Two kids, Sophie, 5, and Eli, 13 months
- Hobbies: movies, books, playing guitar, sports junkie



**Ashton Eller**

- Hired April 27, 2006, as Wage & Hour Customer Service Specialist
- 2005 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington with a double bachelor's in Political Science and Geography
- Lived and worked on a Belgian draft horse farm with his family in Arcadia, Indiana
- Currently resides in Noblesville, Indiana
- Enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, and working with horses

# *Welcome!*

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## Spotlight: Chris Bryant

Did you know that our very own Chris Bryant wears another hat other than the one he wears as an IDOL Industrial Hygienist? Chris is a member of the Volunteer Fire Department in Fort Branch, Indiana. Chris was motivated to get involved and join the department in November 2000, after he had a head-on collision in Pike County. He waited for over one hour for help to arrive.



Chris in action . . .

duty, to water supply, to being the first one in the burning building) plays an important part in making operations safe and healthy. His department has 24 active volunteer members; each person brings his/her talent.

During his time with the department, Chris has assisted with numerous car wrecks, house fires, and medical aid. The department performs between six to seven hundred runs per year for fires, medical assistance,

Chris notes that more people are needed for volunteer fire departments and other similar organizations because of the shrinking number of people volunteering to assist others.

His involvement in fire department activities has helped him realize the importance of teamwork and commitment to the group before yourself, focusing, standing firm on the facts (even if they are changing fast), cooperation, having trust in others, perseverance, and the drive to succeed/win. It has taught him that every job duty (from cleaning equipment, to traffic



An accident at "Dead Man's Curve."



Fire Station #1 . . . destroyed by fire.

rescues, and hazardous material incidents. Most of the area for fire protection that they support does not have fire hydrants, which means they have to bring their own water.

In a sad twist of fate, one of the department's fire station (#1) recently caught fire and burned to the ground while the members were out on a false alarm fire run. The department plans to rebuild on the original site pending grant/insurance monies.

*-Continued-*

See Spotlight on page 9



# INSafe and the Indiana Manufacturers Association – A Strategic Partnership

*By Quin Cheatham*

The services of INSafe, formerly known as BUSET, have changed in many ways in the last year. The goal of the program is to address the health and safety needs of the businesses of Indiana. We are focusing on reaching out to businesses and partnering with entities that show a true commitment to the safety and health of Hoosier businesses and workers.

INSafe has partnered with the Indiana Manufacturers Association to help provide high quality affordable training to the members of this important association. On a regular schedule throughout the year, we are offering scholarships to businesses for training opportunities with the Indiana Manufacturers Association.

In addition to the scholarships that are offered, the Indiana Manufacturers Association is marketing our services to their members. Our approach is to encourage the proactive minds of Indiana businesses to use our services. Working together is a smart partnership. We not only assist small businesses that may not otherwise be able to afford consultation services, we also encourage the participation of employees of those small businesses.

The Indiana Manufacturers Association and INSafe have designed a safety training partnership to reach businesses in Indiana. The continued proactive approach will help employers provide a safe work environment for all of their employees.



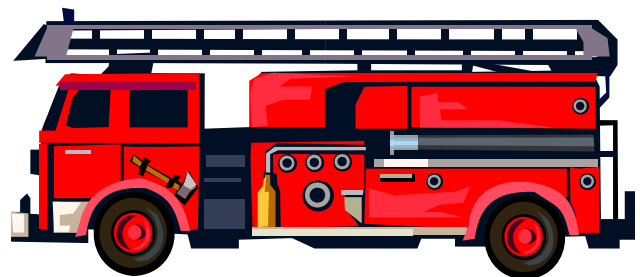
**Commissioner Rivera and Brian Burton of the Indiana Manufacturers Association.**

*Spotlight continued from page 8*

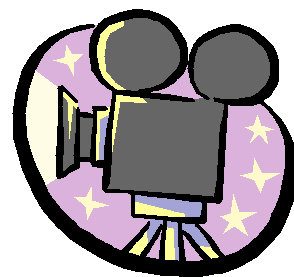
Chris also wears the hat of a family man. He is married and has two daughters, Hannah, 7, Riley, 1, and a son, Owen, 3. And yes, all three of his children think they are rescue heroes just like the cartoon, and they like to ride in parades on the fire trucks.

Most important of all, Chris says that his wife, Monica, makes it possible for him to volunteer with the fire department by taking care of the kids and the house while he is away assisting others on what could be a very difficult day in their lives.

Thank you so much, Chris, for being such a great example of volunteerism and service to others. We are proud of you!



# Lights, Cameras, Action!



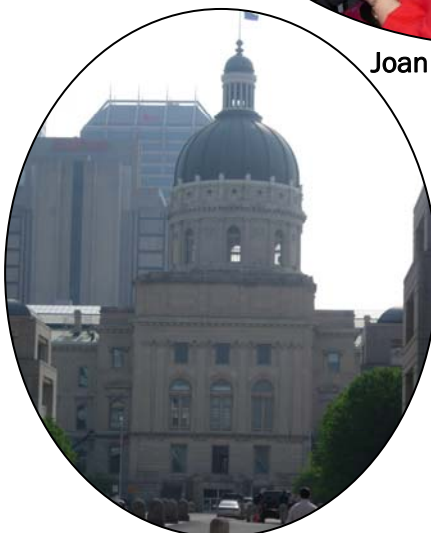
Indy Car visits IGC



Joan Stahl hard at work



Cheese! Michelle Ellison and Barb Gee



State House



Abe Lincoln Monument



Jerry Lander and Quin Cheatham at Indy Airport



Calvin Trautvetter and Jim Casey at March 6 All-Staff Meeting





If you are "restarting your engines" and want up to northern Indiana, you need to try a breakfast at **Teals Restaurant**. It will fill you up and keep you going all day long. The restaurant is in the tiny town of Mentone where State Road 19 and State Road 25 meet. Mentone is the "Egg Capital of the World" (or so it is reported).

Enough about the town. We need to talk "FOOD!" Order the Teals Special and you will get two eggs, any way you want them. (I like 'em over easy.) Along with the eggs, there will be biscuits and gravy, hash browns, and a very, very LARGE portion of delicious bacon. Ah, yes, toast and coffee, too. You can't possibly eat all that bacon, so take the extra home, as I do, and fix BLTs for lunch! And, all this for less than a five dollar bill! What a deal! Oh, did I mention the homey atmosphere and the fast, friendly service? A visit to **Teals Restaurant** is a must for breakfast lovers!

### Congratulations, OPS team!

The Operations team is making significant headway in adding efficiencies in agency procurement and inventory control. Be sure to check out the look of our new equipment and supply rooms – now completely organized by fund center and Federal grant! Great job!

Stay tuned next month for more OPS news about the successful reorganization of our Wage & Hour program...

## Did you know . . .

These discount travel tickets are available at the State Personnel Office?







## Coming Events . . .

### MAY

- 6 500 Festival Mini-Marathon
- 27 500 Festival Parade
- 28 Indianapolis 500
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed



### JUNE

- 8 Strawberry Festival (Monument Circle)
- 28 All Staff Meeting (10:00am-12:00pm)

### JULY

- 4 Fourth of July Holiday - Office Closed



# Joker's Corner



## THE APPLICANT

A business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window, stating the following:

**HELP WANTED:** Must be able to type, have computer skills, and be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

A dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined a bit.

Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on a chair and stared at the manager. The manager said, "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type."

The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back up on the chair.

The manager was stunned, but then told the dog, "The sign also says you have to be good with a computer."

The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. The dog proceeded to enter and execute a perfect spreadsheet that worked flawlessly the first time.

By this time, the manager was totally dumbfounded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went over to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the sentence about being an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The manager said, "Yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual." The dog looked at that manager calmly and said, "Meow."

